

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application and the rejection of claims 1-3, 5-13, and 15-19 is respectfully requested. Applicant has attempted to address every objection and ground of rejection in the Office Action dated October 3, 2003 (Paper No. 20030925) and believes the application is now in condition for allowance. The claims have been amended to more clearly describe the present invention.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant acknowledges the indication of allowability of claims 4 and 14. However, the present claims are submitted to be allowable on the basis of the present amendments.

Claims 1-3, 5-13 and 15-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C §102(e) in view of Reid. Reid teaches a bracket system that holds a filter in quick-release fashion including conduits for flow in or out of one or both ends of the filter. The bracket system includes pairs of brackets, each pair includes a top bracket and a bottom bracket, which capture the top end and bottom end of the filter respectively. The top brackets are adapted to pivot off of the filters, so that the filters may be lifted up off of the bottom brackets. Alternatively, the bottom brackets may be pivotal, so that the filters can be removed from the bracket system by pivoting the filters away from the top modules.

In contrast, amended claims 1 and 15 now recite, among other things, that the filter head assembly (head in claim 15) includes a head housing having an inlet port and an outlet port, with each of said ports being pivotally connected to one of a tubular connector and an end plug fitting (in claim 15, each of said ports are pivotally connected

to an end plug fitting) so that the head housing can pivot about a horizontal axis defined by the respective connector and/or fitting. Support can be found in the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 16 and FIGs. 1-3 and 5. Consequently, Reid does not teach all of the features now recited.

Specifically, in the now claimed assembly and filter head, the housing pivots about the connector and/or fitting, which in one embodiment are the inlet and outlet ports. In contrast, in Reid the top bracket or head pivots about an axis which is transverse to and separate from the fluid flow passages. Since the structure now claimed is not disclosed by Reid, the 102(e) rejection is respectfully traversed. Accordingly, claims 1-3 and 5-13 and 15-19 are submitted to be allowable.

None of these references, whether cited or of record, taken either alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the invention as claimed.

Applicant submits that in view of the above-identified amendments and remarks, the claims in their present form are patentably distinct over the art of record. Allowance of the rejected claims is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner discover there are remaining issues which may be resolved by a telephone interview, an invitation

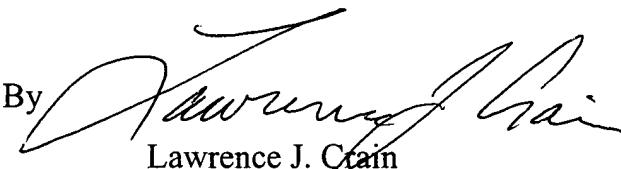
Appl. No. 10/090,247
Amdt. Dated December 29, 2003
Reply to the Office Action of October 3, 2003

is extended to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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